Only One of James Boys' Gang of Robbers Is Now Alive

"Kit" Dalton's Death a Few Weeks off on the Austin and San Antonio Ago Leaves Jim Cummings as the Only Survivor

neads of the retired guerrillas and Wakefield's barn in Kentucky. that knew Quantrell, the grim chieftain of the black flag, and those original old masters of the train robbing industry, the James boys and the Younger brothers.

There still remain about a dozen of the grizzled veterans of Quantrell's band, who, though widely scattered throughout the country, meet each year at a reunion in Jackson County, Mo., and vow that they will continue to do so until the last of the band is gone.

Jim Cummings the Last

Of the old James gang of bandits, now that "Kit" Dalton has passed along, but one remains-the once much sought for Jim Cummings, now a feeble old man who makes a living by peddling his book of memoirs at Excelsior Springs, in Clay County, Mo., a watering place near the old James homestead at Kear-

"Kit" Dalton was seventy-seven years old at the time of his death. He was a picturesque type of the oldtime fire-eating Southerner. He wore his hair in long cavalier curls that swept his coat collar and wore the Confederate uniform to the last. Slight of build and weighing less than 120 pounds, he achieved a reputation for daring and devilry in his early career that was only equaled, according to no less an account than his own, by Quantrell himself. Some years before his death, after waiting, as he said, "until the statute of limitations had run"-he published a book, "Under the Black Flag," which is one of the most remarkable productions in the annals of picturesque literature.

It is one of the best sellers in the West and South, largely owing to the fact that it was circulated by y fairs and from the lecture plat- he took part in them. form. In it he frankly tells the tory of his life "as a guerrilla cap-too hot for him he went to Texas, Southern states. tain under Quantrell and a border utlaw for seventeen years."

A Raider at Fifteen

N APRIL 8, in Memphis, out at fifteen as a private in For-Tenn., where he had lived rest's raiders, he joined Quantrell's for the last thirty years in the peaceful enjoyment of and was the last, he states, to leave the mid-West glamour that halos the his chief in his death grapple at

bandits of the border war days and The war over, he became the boon the succeeding period, there passed companion of the Jameses and the divisor 4, the quotient would necesaway Captain "Kit" Dalton, one of Youngers, and, while he does not go to the length of open confession matical form, \$2,000 divided by 4 the few remaining human links that in his book, he shows an intimate connect the present generation with knowledge of all their daring robthe one, now a half-century removed, beries and leaves the reader to draw



PICTURESQUE "KIT" DALTON, whose death a few weeks ago leaves only one survivor of the James bous' band of robbers

There is matter enough in this running a branch department of the in motor cars and make their escape all the properties and the concomibook to make a hundred yellow- train robbery industry in Texas through the crowded city streets, tants of the bandits of the opera-

line in the spring of '74. "Kit" Dalton did not claim in his disclosures to be a participant-he never made that mistake. He was too much of a literary artist to lay himself open in that way. He handles the matter delicately, thus: -

Never Incriminated Himself

"I was with Sam Bass shortly after this thrilling incident, and have every reason to believe the proceeds from the Austin and San Antonio stage robbery were divided into four equal shares, something like this: The dividend being \$2,000 and the sarily be \$500, or, in better matheequals Sam Bass, Joe Collins, Bill Jackson and a gentleman of small stature lately arrived from Mis-

The proceeds of the Mesquite switch robbery, a full-sized train job done by Sam Bass in regulation Jesse James style, were divided, according to Dalton's memoirs, between "Sam Bass, Jim and Joe Collins' and another gentleman who was a warm personal friend of mine."

But the rangers soon pumped Sam Bass and the Collins boys full of lead and the "little gentleman from Missouri" made another one of his remarkable escapes.

The next heard of him he was in Garcia's camp in Cuba, teaching the insurgents bushwhacking tactics, where he remained until the dengue fever sent him back to his native heath again.

Just how "Kit" managed to square things, after all his exploits on the road, he did not reveal in his otherwiso frank narrative, but square them some way he did, for he went back to his old home in Memphis within a few years and lived the life of a happy, peaceful and contented ex-bandit until his death a few

Attended All the Reunions

"Kit" Dalton, with his long hair and in a suit of faultless Confedererate gray, was a conspicuous figure for many years at the gatherings of the old guerrilla clan in their oldtime habitat in the Blue Ridge hills of Jackson County, Mo., and at the Confederate reunions throughout the country. He was an anachronism whose generation had long passed him by, belonging to a day when there was still a glamour of Rob Roy mystery and romance hanging around the guerrilla bands that had turned to robbery in a spirit of re- modern features of the game that the doughty captain himself at coun- his own conclusions as to whether prisal and revenge and for seven- commends itself to sentiment or apteen years had made their names a peals to the imagination. When the trails in Missouri got terror throughout the Western and

HIDING PLACE of the James boys in the "Crackerneck" district, a famous haunt of bandits in Missouri

Now a City Suburb

backed novels of the kind that fields. Sam was short of funds and They don't even take the trouble to swift, blooded steeds for 'cross-coun
The captain and the kings of the garages now attest the great After the removal of Jesse James to retire from the active pursuits'

secure place of refuge and the still tumer's skill, his headwork in But the bold raiders of "Kit" Dal- capes from the minions of the law, erneck" is now a flourishing country, later times when the James boys and weak. After one good job in the ton's day were the Little Johns, the the loot divided under the green-suburb of Kansas City. Rock boule- the Younger brothers held it in Blue Cut that netted his gang a tor rode the ranges for a while, and then There are train robbers and bank Allan-a-Dales, the Dick Turpins and wood trees, and the secret haunts of vards and oiled roads surround and feudal mastery as a recruiting and "met up" down there with "Sam robbers to-day—plenty of them—but the Rob Roys of the trade—at least traverse this district once given over mustering ground for their night which was strictly against the James and the control of the Bass, of Indiana," who was then they ride prosaically to their work in popular imagination. Theirs were the Sni Hills or the "Crackerneck" to the wilderness of nature as well riding expeditions. The very name boys' tenets—and talked himself as to the lawlessness of man. Splen- of "Crackerneck" is almost a for- into the penitentiary.

the days when Quantrell's guerrillas

Jack Kennedy, known as the "O Hunter," did his best a few ye later to introduce some innovati and to put it on a profitable and a basis, but without success.

Kennedy won his title of "Qu Hunter" from the fact that he arrested one night while riding for to his work dressed in full regal and, in response to questions and the reasons for his abundance of a tillery, replied: "I'm going on hunting."

To Kennedy, however, belongs to distinction of having introduced to first modern safety devices into system. The James boys' method, work was primitive but effective trifle rougher and more dangers than that later adopted by Kenne but proportionately more profital. They usually piled the track with structions, waved a red signal letern, and when the train stoppe they boarded it with terroring rebel yells and a fusillade of piet shots on both sides of the tra After the express messengers was attended to, two of the operation went through the passenger coach and took up the final collection is gunnysack. But little attention we given to the detail of costumebandanna handkerchief over the lower part of the face and a lim duster generally sufficed them to

Introduced New Technique

When Kennedy undertook establish the game in the "Cracker neck" district he displayed an ablute genius for new technique. I had been a railroad engineer a knew how to run a locomotive. after stopping a train in the old a proved method, he cut off the bar gage and express cars and, jumpi gineer and personally conducted the two treasure cars a few miles up the road, where he could finish the bus ness at his leisure.

And as for costume, Kennedy me a real artist. His outfit for the res consisted of a Ku-Klux shroud, felwhiskers and slouch hat-a makeitself sufficient to strike terror in his victims almost without the men

found in "Crackerneck" their most. But for all his technique and a

Beadle used to turn out. Starting a trifle of stage robbery was pulled wear masks, and there is little in the try sally and flight, hairbreadth es- industry have all departed. "Crack- changes that time has wrought since and the surrender of Frank, in 1882, business. Did His War Experiences Make a Mr. Hyde of This English Dr. Jekyll? REDERICK ROTH WELL "After the war, which for a time Holt and called him her "super- in Holt's desire to rid himself of Breaks were engaged, and Holt sug- the judge's remarks he turned on along its eastern shore from Gary, This unusual sound is produced to

real problem is: Did the war meta- desired and sought after. morphose Frederick Rothwell Holt, making a Mr. Hyde of one who had "To be seen with Eric Holt was been a Dr. Jekyll?

as he was generally known, was a quiet, industrious, rather retiring ance or manner was more remote young man, a university graduate than any suggestion that he could who went from school into an engi- possibly be a criminal. neering position to which he devoted "Clean and well groomed and his time faithfully. He had a pri- with smiling gray eyes that seemed vate income that more than sufficed for his simple needs.

A Different Man

"Socially Eric Holt, as he was "Color, romance and the society

"Later he became apprenticed to which made him irresistible to considered a very good income from his mother. The sum has been put markable young man. at £300 per annum, but those who have a more intimate knowledge of The rehis affairs aver that it was considerably in excess of that amount. At Holt murdered Mrs. Breaks. Her any rate, it was sufficient for Eric body was found in the sandhills to live a life of ease and have what near Manchester. is called a good time.

Eric Holt at the age of twenty-one. Breaks, who was infatuated with

HOLT, ex-lieutenant of the left him an invalid, there appeared man," was lured by Holt on an ex- an affair of which he was tired gested that each of them take out his heel, thrust his hands in his at the southern extremity, to Macki-British army, is in Manches- a subtle change. He flung himself cursion into the country and there and the more substantial desire to a life insurance policy earof death for one of the most brutal pleasure seeking filled his life. He A motive for the crime was found ried by Mrs. Breaks. Holt and Mrs. and Holt obtained a policy for her murders in the history of English was the gay Lothario and made a triumphal progress among his many The brutality of the crime, how- women acquaintances. They loved ever, is not what makes it worthy his wit and laughter; his attendof more than passing notice. The ance upon them was a thing to be

Nothing of the Criminal

Before he went to war Eric Holt, tunate girls. Nothing in his appear-

to look at you with honest good humor from a heart that hides It was a different Eric Holt who nothing that is not for the world returned from France. An English to see-such was the impression writer well describes the "before that Eric Holt gave as he was and after" character of the lieuten- known to his many friends at Lytham, St. Annes and Blackpool.

familiarly known, belongs to the big middle class group who live of women became like the breath of comfortably in well built houses, life to him. They were the essensurrounded with every reasonable tials and the desirable things for luxury. Most of his thirty-one years him during this period. The soberwas spent at Lytham, where he was ness of ordinary, commonplace life educated at a first class private was not for him. He reveled in this "There was nothing in his boy- hothouse atmosphere. Commonly hood days to mark him out as being you would see him, from sheer exuabnormal-he appeared to be just berance, pick his dancing partner up a healthy lad of temperate ambi- -he was passionately fond of dancing-and whirl her in the air.

a large firm of engineers at Preston. When he became of age he them, so that one woman, disapinherited what in former days was pointed with what life had given her, sought consolation in this re-

"That woman was Mrs. Elsie The verdict of the jury was that

Her "Superman" "There you have the picture of According to the evidence, Mrs.



EX-LIEUTENANT FREDERICK ROTHWELL HOLT, of the British army, who apparently was metamorphosed by his war experience

of \$20,000, which was far in excess of her ability to carry. He paid the first and only premium paid on it.

to make a will in his favor, saying of Lake Michigan. These extend through them in an abrasive way. waxing a table. It was a squeal in neither made a will nor took out an insurance policy.

Mrs. Breaks was murdered the day after she made her will.

There was little doubt at any time as to the guilt of Holt, although he did set up a claim to an alibi as well as a plea of insanity. The real contest was over the mental responsibility of the prisoner. His counsel offered the life of Holt before and after his war service as proof that he was insane. Experts testified that Holt was a victim of delusions. A letter written by Holt to Mrs. Breaks a few days before the murder was apparently that of a man deeply in love, and this was cited as proof that Holt either did not kill the woman or was insane when he did so.

On the other hand, the prosecution asserted that only a sane man could have planned such a crime and carried it out with such clever-

Denounced Curious Women The trial attracted immense

throngs, most of the spectators being women. Their curiosity so enraged Sir Edward Marshall-Hall, Holt's attorney, that he denounced them in a speech, saying: "It makes one feel sick for the

femininity of this country that women should come in their dozens day by day and gloat over the trouble of a man on trial for his life." The jury, after considering the

case less than an hour, found Holt guilty. Holt stood calmly as the sentence of death was pronounced upon him, and at the conclusion of

Singing Sands

Throughout this region the sands a stick is trailed, boy-fashion, be near the water's edge, in dry weath- hind.

N INTERESTING attempt is er, emit a peculiar but definite Thoreau, in "The Journal," sait Then Holt persuaded Mrs. Breaks | made by a writer in "Science" and unmistakable sound when the was like the sound made by rub in to explain the singing sands foot of the pedestrian pushes wet glass with your finger or b



MRS. ELSIE BREAKS, who paid with her life for her love for ex-Lieutenant Frederick Rothwell Holf, whom she called her "superman"

nac, at the northern, with compara- emitted also if the bare foot or las tively few breaks or interruptions. is struck through the grains of

sound, as of one particle rubits

against another. "My hypothesis, briefly state,"

this," says a writer in "Scient" "The sand grains on the lower beat and as far as the upper limit of at storm beach are bathed periodically by the waters of the lake, which contain various salts, including cf cium and magnesium bicarbonate This water dries on the grains of sand, coating the surfaces with at extremely thin film of salts, including calcium and magnesium carbonates. This film is of such nature as to create considerable friction when rubbed, and the when the grains are brought ital contact with various surfaces sound is emitted. One may compare the action of the film of dried salts on the sand grains with the action of rosin on the violin bow.

"The beach sand is, of course, the same sand which later goes to form the dunes when transported by the wind, but during this transports tion, due to the abrasive action el grain against grain, much of the salt film is rubbed off and carried on by the wind in the same manner that clay dust is, to be deposited in quiet places, as on the forest floor beyond. After deposition in blosouts or on dunes, the grains are subjected from time to time to the bleaching action of rain water, and this completes the removal of calcium and magnesium carbonates (in the form of bicarbonates and of the other salts) so that the original sand grain surface is restored, of to speak metaphorically, the sant lose their singing voice. Such is the hypothesis."